THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) It is too early to indicate grainwise production in each State as the final estimates of kharif foodgrains production for 1991-92 have not yet become due from the States and rabi sowings are in progress.

(b) The physical stocks of foodgrains on Central and State Governments account as on 1st November, 1991 was 14.9 million tonnes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As a part of the effort to increase foreign exchange earnings, it has been decided to export 8 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1991-92 from the stocks of food Corporation of India. A ceiling of 7 lakh tonnes of non-basmati rice has been released for exports during 1991-92. Export of Basmati rice is on OGL. It has also been decided to export 5.61 lakh tonnes of sugar during 1991-92.

Return of Gulf Returnees to their Respective Gulf Country

3549. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN
SHRI P.C. THOMAS
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Gulf returnees in India who have not yet returned to their respective Gulf country including Kuwait; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for their speedy return to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Government have taken various steps to facilitate and speed the return of the Indian Nationals repatriated from the Gulf; these include waiver of Immigration Clearance Requirement, speedier issuance of passports and reintroduction of Air India flights to Kuwait. While an estimated 60,000 out of 150,000 have already gone back to Kuwait, at present about 1000 a week are going back.

[*Translation*]

Inquiry Committee Regarding Tunnel Accident in Orissa

3550. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up any Committee to inquire into the tunnel accident in Kalahandi district of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee on safety of tunnel work of Upper Indravati Hydro-Electric Project has been set up on 3rd of September, 1991 under the Chairmanship of Member (Hd), Central Water Commission, comprising the representatives from Central Water Commission and Central Electricity Authority to ascertain the causes which led to the flooding of the tunnel on 28.7.1991, to ascertain the extent and quantum of damage to the machineries and other works of national Projects Construction Corporation Ltd. and to examine the construction planning with a view to secure safety of the works. The Committee visited the project site from 14th to 18th November, 1991.

A Joint Team of the Chief Engineers of Central Water Commission and Central

Electricity Authority has also been constituted on 27th September, 1991 to assess the extent of damage to the works due to flooding of the tunnel and the cost of restoration works thereof. The team visited the project site from 18th to 20th November, 1991. The removal of debris and restoration works have already commenced.

[*English*]

Allotment of LPG Agencies in Kerala

3551. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for allotment of LPG agency at any station;

(b) whether the Government have any plan to allot more LPG agencies in Kerala particularly in Kottayam and Ernakulam districts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (c). As per the present policy new LPG agencies are opened in a phased manner depending upon economic viability and product availability, in places having a population of 20,000 and above (as per 1981 census).

Setting of of Mini Refinery in Krishna Godavari Basin

3552. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a mini refinery i.e. a crude distillation unit in Krishna Godavari basin for processing the crude oil produced in this basin.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (c). Crude Oil production in the Krishna Godavari Basin was 0..0123 million tonnes in the year 1990-91 and is expected to be about 0.022 million tonnes in the year 1991-92. At these levels of production, a crude distillation unit in the Krishna-Godavari basin would not be viable.

Tungabhadra Board

3553. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent by proposal to Union Government for the abolition of the Tungabhadra Board;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has objected to the said proposal; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure the distribution of Tungabhadra water between Karnataka and Andhra Pradxesh as per the previous agreements?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal for abolition of Tungabhadra Board was received from the Government of Karnataka in 1985.